

HOMework ZONE

TAKING TESTS

ESSAY

Test-Taking Basics

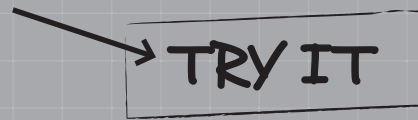
- Read directions carefully.
- Review the whole test before beginning.
- Plan your time. Figure out how much time you should spend on each question.
Count how many questions are on the test and how many points each is worth.
Spend the most time answering the questions worth the most points.
- Answer the easiest questions first.
- Review your answers.

Essays

Essay questions are open ended. There isn't one right or wrong answer and the questions can be answered in many different ways. Your teacher, however, will be looking for specific information, ideas, and items.

Tips for essay tests

- Read the question carefully. Look for the direction word that tells you what to do in the answer. Common direction words include discuss, describe, explain, analyze, summarize, compare, illustrate, list, define, contrast.
- Plan your timing for answering the question or questions. Be sure to include time for organizing, brainstorming, and re-reading your answer.
- Underline key words in the question that will help you focus on what is being asked and what you should include in your answer.
- Ask if you can use scrap paper to make notes or an outline before you write.
- Write! Make sure to include an opening statement that presents your main idea. Include facts and information throughout the essay that support your answer.
- Review what you wrote. Is it clear and organized? Does it answer the question? Proofread it for mistakes.



Identify the direction words in the essay questions below:

Many people disagree about the war in Iraq.
Explain why the United States went to war and why people are so divided about it.

Discuss the ways that the invention of the railroad changed travel.